bent can be made from cellulosic fibers, wood pulp, textile fibers or from other absorbent materials known to those skilled in the art. Superabsorbents, commonly in solid form and in the shape of small particles, granules, flakes, etc., can be mixed, combined, attached, printed or otherwise added to the absorbent material to increase the absorbent capacity of the absorbent. A surge layer **276** can also be optionally used, which is normally positioned between the bodyside liner **264** and the absorbent assembly **260**. The surge layer **276** can function to rapidly acquire and temporarily retain body fluid, such as urine, before it can be absorbed into the absorbent. Desirably, the surge layer **276** is also capable of wicking body fluid lengthwise and/or widthwise across its surface as well as directing the body fluid downward in a z-direction, toward the absorbent.

[0097] The undergarment **14** further includes a waistband **288** secured to the front and back end edges **230** and **232**. A portion of the waistband **288** overlaps each of the front and back waist regions **252** and **254** and projects outward therefrom. The waistband **288** can be described as extending outward from the front and back end edges **230** and **232** in a cantilevered configuration.

[0098] The waistband **288** can be constructed from almost any elastic material having stretch and retraction capabilities. A desirable nonwoven material from which the waistband **288** can be constructed is spunbond. The waistband **288** can be a laminate containing a first layer, a second layer and two or more elastic strands positioned therebetween. The outer two layers can be constructed or formed from a woven or a nonwoven material, a natural or synthetic material, an elastic film, a thermoplastic film, or from any other material known to those skilled in the art. The number of elastic strands positioned between the two outer layers can vary depending upon the width of the waistband **288**. The elastic strands can be formed from LYCRA brand elastic available from Invista of Wichita, Kans., U.S.A.

[0099] The undergarment **14** further includes a pair of side seams (not shown) that function to join, bond and/or secure the front waist region **252** to the back waist region **254**. The pair of side seams extends through the waistband **288** as well to form a unitary undergarment. By "unitary" it is meant that the undergarment **14** is designed to be stepped into by a wearer and the undergarment **14** is then pulled up along the wearer's legs and thighs and positioned around the wearer's torso. There is no need to first open a unitary undergarment before it is applied to a wearer's body. The unitary undergarment **14** has a longitudinal centerline **240**, a waist opening **246**, and a pair of leg openings **248**.

[0100] The undergarment **14** further includes leg elastic members **268**, each of which at least partially surrounds the pair of leg openings **248**. The elastic members **268** can consist of one or more elastic strands. Each of the elastic members **268** can be formed as a continuous or a non-continuous member. In FIG. **4**, each of the elastic members **268** is depicted as two separate and distinct members that are spaced apart from one another. However, a single elastic member **268**, consisting of two or three elastic strands, could be employed that extend from one side seam to the opposite side seam.

[0101] The undergarment **14** can also include leg cuffs or leg flaps (not shown), each of which at least partially surrounds the pair of leg openings **248**, to better seal the leg openings **248** against leakage. The leg cuffs can also include elastic members consisting of one or more elastic strands. Each of the elastic members can be formed as a continuous or a non-continuous member.

[0102] The absorbent assembly **260** can be in a variety of shapes and configurations as are known in the art, such as rectangular, hourglass shaped, l-shaped, and the like. The absorbent assembly **260** has opposed lateral edges **261** and opposed longitudinal ends **263**. The lateral edges **261** and longitudinal ends **263** together make up the perimeter **265** of the absorbent assembly **260**.

[0103] The leakage prevention element **20** is positioned within the adult garment **14** so that urine or other body exudates filling the absorbent assembly **260** contacts the leakage prevention element **20** prior to completely filling and eventually leaking from the adult garment **14**. Thus, the leakage prevention element **20** is disposed with or near the absorbent assembly **260** so that urine or other body exudates contacting the absorbent assembly **260** will also eventually contact the leakage prevention element **20**. Most desirably, the leakage prevention element **20** is disposed on the bodyside of the absorbent assembly **260** so as to be sandwiched between the absorbent assembly **260** and the bodyside liner **264**. In this way, the physical sensation resulting from the leakage prevention element **20** is more easily noticed by the wearer.

[0104] In another aspect of the present disclosure (not shown), the leakage prevention element **20** can be located within the absorbent assembly **260** or beneath the absorbent assembly **260**. The leakage prevention element **20** can also be positioned on the leg cuffs or containment flaps or in any other suitable position in the adult garment **14**, as long as fluid communication is provided between the absorbent assembly **260** and the leakage prevention element **20**. Leakage prevention elements **20** can be positioned on the flaps, positioned as a single web at the center of the flaps, slit with the flaps, or placed at the flap base. The leakage prevention element **20** can also be placed near the flap elastic members so that the substances are encapsulated in the flap material, not allowing the particle material to fall out. In addition, leakage prevention elements **20** can be positioned in more than one location within the adult garment **14**. The leakage prevention element **20** can be maintained in position by bonding, using adhesives, ultrasonic bonds, or other suitable means.

[0105] One or more leakage prevention elements **20** can be disposed in the adult garment **14**. As illustrated in FIG. **4**, a pair of leakage prevention elements **20** is positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline **241** and spaced apart from the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse centerlines **241**, **243** along the transverse centerline **243**. Similarly, a pair of leakage prevention elements **20** can be positioned on opposite sides of the transverse centerline **243** and spaced apart from the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse centerlines **241**, **243** along the longitudinal centerline **241** (not shown). In another aspect, leakage prevention elements **20** can be positioned at each of the points at which a centerline meets the perimeter **265** of the absorbent assembly **260** (not shown). In still another aspect, the leakage prevention elements **20** can be positioned completely or partially along the entire absorbent assembly perimeter **265** (not shown).

[0106] The position and/or structure of the leakage prevention elements **20** should be such that the leakage prevention elements **20** come in contact with urine or other bodily waste as the absorbent assembly **260** fills but prior to any leakage from the absorbent assembly **260**. The leakage prevention